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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (KASSAPIS, ANDREAS COSTA)

SUBJECT: W/W: MISSING CYPRIOT-AMERICAN ANDREAS COSTA KASSAPIS.
REF: STATE 134158
CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST.

1. AS A RESULT OF A RECENT VISIT FROM MR. COSTAS KASSAPIS, FATHER OF SUBJECT AND A MEMBER OF "MISSING PERSONS DELEGATION", SENATOR PHILIP A. HART HAS BECOME PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN THIS CASE. IN REGARD TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL SEARCH FOR SUBJECT AS REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL, MISSIONS MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IF IT IS NOT ALREADY AVAILABLE: FROM DOCUMENTS PRESENTED BY MR. KASSAPIS TO SENATOR HART, A GREEK CYPRIOT BY THE NAME OF GEORGIOS HADJI APOSTOLOU RESIDING AT DENOKRATOUS IA, AYIOS IOANNIS, TELEPHONE 73153 STATED THAT HE HEARD THAT THERE WERE STILL MORE GREEKS AT THE AMASIA PRISON (AS OF NOV. 12, 1974) FROM A FELLOW PRISONER WHO STATED WHEN HE WAS LEAVING HIS CELL HE HEARD SOMEONE SHOUTING FROM THE BASEMENT
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OF THE PRISON "I AM LEONTIOS LEONTIOU FROM ASHIA, I PLAY

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FOOTBALL WITH ETHNIKOS ASHIAS, HE WAS TAKEN PRISONER IN ASHIA, I AM WITH MY BROTHER-IN-LAW AND WE ARE UNDECLARED". THE BROTHER-IN-LAW REFERRED TO IN THAT QUOTE IS REPORTEDLY ANDREAS COSTA KASSAPIS. KASSAPIS AND LEONTIOU (WHO IS NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN) WERE LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE AND BOTH WERE ABDUCTED AT THE SAME TIME ON AUGUST 20, 1974. IN ADDITION A STATEMENT HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM A MR. GEORGIOS PAPALEONTIOU OF 10, NAVARINOU ST., AYIOS DHOMETIOS WHO SAID WHILE LEAVING THE PRISON CELL AT AMASIA ON OCTOBER 25 HE HEARD IN THE CORRIDOR SOMEONE SHOUTING FROM THE BASEMENT SAYING "I AM LEONTIOU FROM ASHIA. I AM WITH MY BROTHER-IN-LAW AND WE ARE NOT BEING TAKEN WITH YOU". THE STATEMENT OF MR. APOSTOLOU WAS MADE ON NOVEMBER 12, 1974 AND THAT OF MR. PAPALEONTIOU ON JANUARY 23, 1975.

2. IN ADDITION TO THIS INFORMATION MR. KASSAPIS STATES THAT THE NAMES OF HIS SON'S ABDUCTORS ARE DJEMALI BATTI AND KIUFI ASMI, TURKISH-CYPRIOTS FROM THE VILLAGE OF APHANIA. REPORTEDLY THEY WERE ARMED AND IGNORED SUBJECT'S CLAIM TO AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, PUTTING HIM ON A TRACTOR AND DRIVING HIM OFF TO APHANIA.

3. ANKARA AND NICOSIA SHOULD FOLLOW UP ABOVE INFO"WHICH WE ASSUME NICOSIA ALREADY AWARE OF, WITH APPROPRIATE INQUERIES TO RELEVANT AUTHORITIES AND SHOULD DO SO IN CONTEXT OF MORE GENERAL INSTRUCTION CONTAINED IN SEPTEL REPORTING EUR DEP. ASST. SEC. LAINGEN'S MEETING WITH MISSING PERSONS DELEGATION. SENATOR HART'S OFFICE HAS REITERATED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE CASE. NOT ONLY FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT BUT ALSO BECAUSE SENATOR HART VOTED FOR LIFTING THE AID EMBARGO TO TURKEY, HE IS OF THE FIRM OPINION THAT TURKISH AUTHORITIES SHOULD MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT TO COOPERATE IN PROVIDING INFO ON SUBJECT AS WELL AS ON OTHER MISSING CYPRIOT-AMERICANS. REPORTEDLY SENATOR HART MAY CALL PERSONALLY UPON THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF OTHER CONGRESSMEN ON THE HILL TO PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO DETERMINE THE WELFARE-WHEREABOUTS OF THESE MISSING PERSONS. KISSINGER

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